

Metro's picks for awards season glory



EDMONTON • WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 28-30, 2008

metronews.ca



Britney's weight loss methods worry friends

7 Albertans believed killed in fiery crash

COLORADO Seven Albertans, including an infant and a toddler, were killed in a horrific car accident yesterday in Colorado.

The group was driving around 4:30 a.m. in a Chevrolet Suburban on Highway I-25 near Johnstown, 65 kilometres north of Denver on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday when the car slammed into a guardrail.

"The car went into the rail, flew off the interstate and fell onto an embankment on the highway below and burst into flames," state trooper Gilbert Mares told Metro. "The vehicle was still in flames when emergency responders arrived."

The medical examiner from Larimer County Coroner's Office working on the case said all indications are that the people were from Alberta.

METRO CANADA

Canada pg 8



Fiscal plan draws fire

Music pg 27

Books you can groove to

ShareYourViews

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Festival of Trees Mouth-watering display



Bailee Dunford, 6, eyes a large gingerbread house on display at the Shaw Conference Centre Festival of Trees, which is a fundraising event for the University Hospital Foundation. The festival runs through Sunday.

Victim's girlfriend recalls seeing body

Woman alleges accused put man's head out window

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
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Two former girlfriends of a man stabbed 39 times attended his murder trial yesterday, one who is raising his young daughter, and the other who saw his bloody, lifeless body shoved out a window.

Eugene (Preacher) Falle, 45, is accused of murdering 18-year-old Shane Chalifoux after the young man climbed into his window on Oct. 1, 2006, bringing a

rising drug-fuelled turf war to a bloody climax.

The victim's former girlfriend, Karen Michele, took the stand yesterday, recounting fuzzy memories of watching from the sidewalk while the accused allegedly shoved Chalifoux's body out a window.

"Preacher was standing over Shane's body. That, I don't think I can ever forget," Michele said. "He told us he was dead and we didn't believe him ... (Preacher) grabbed his head, put it out the window, and said,

Timeline

- The Crown is expected to wrap up its case today.

'Dead, see?'

Multiple witnesses, some serving time in prison, have taken the stand, claiming the young man begged for his life, a chilling cry for help that rang through the inner-city apartment.

Chalifoux's family members were in court yesterday, and said in an interview they're still in mourning.

"It's so hard, but we have to live with it every day," said former girlfriend Kimberly Emard, who is raising the couple's three-year-old daughter, Jada. "She talks about her dad and says he's dead. It hurts so much when she says that."

Falle's lawyer, Charles Davison, claims his client acted in self-defence.

"My brother ... was not dangerous. I'm sorry, but stabbing someone 39 times is not self-defence," Chalifoux's sister, Holly Hanson, said outside court.

Maciocia steps down as Eskimos head coach

FOOTBALL After finally bringing his team into the post-season, only to be disappointed by Montreal in the East Division Final, the green and gold's head coach is stepping away from the playing field.

Edmonton Eskimos head coach Danny Maciocia has decided to run his team from the press box instead, concentrating more on his duties as the team's director of football of operations.



"We're on the right path."

Danny Maciocia

"I feel it is time to move on to the next phase of my career," said Maciocia yesterday after giving up his coaching duties.

"We're on the right path and there is no reason why we can't make that next step in 2009."

Maciocia has spent his last four years as the team's head coach, including winning a Grey Cup in his first year in 2005.

The team missed the playoff twice the following two seasons, something that has never happened to the football club in three decades.

And despite calls from outraged fans to fire the team's coach, Maciocia took the Eskimos to the East Division final with a 10-8 record this season.

JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO EDMONTON

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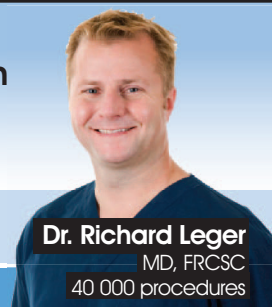
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Local



Children's Christmas fantasy

A group of youngsters from the Stollery Children's Hospital get a special treat Dec. 9 at the Fantasyland Hotel's Beverly Hill Ballroom. About 200 guests, including children and their families, will receive an all-trimmings included dinner, a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, presents and a limousine tour of the Bright Lights Festival in Hawrelak Park.

METRO EDMONTON

No wage rollbacks for Alberta Tories

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The Alberta government will spend its money much more prudently to weather the worldwide economic meltdown, but that won't include rolling back a recent pay hike politicians gave themselves last spring, the

premier said.

"I'm not going to hit the panic button," said Premier Ed Stelmach during a media scrum yesterday.

"The salaries are roughly equal to or in the middle range compared to other jurisdictions."

Stelmach's 23-member cabinet voted for the hike behind closed doors in May to boost their pay by

as much as 30 per cent.

The move also made the premier's salary jump by \$54,000 to \$213,450. Ottawa announced plans this week to

curb government perks, including the termination of a three per cent pay hike for MPs because of the economic situation in Canada.



Ed Stelmach

And along with the wage rollbacks, the federal government has also announced restrictions on travel and entertainment, along with cutting back on business-class travelling.

"I'm not going to hit the panic button."

Premier Ed Stelmach

Ontario's government has also made similar announcements this week.

Alberta Liberal Leader Kevin Taft, who donated his pay hike to chairity, has also suggested the

government should "lead by example" to cut the size of its cabinet and reduce the number of ministerial perks.

"We're working through the budget and it will be balanced," responded Stelmach.

"We're going to make those decisions to make sure the priorities of Albertans are met."

Female fire victim identified

BLAZE A 53-year-old woman who perished in a fire last week has been identified.

Beverly Baker died inside the bedroom of her ground-floor apartment

suite at 5304 - 147 Avenue, after an early morning fire ripped through the complex.

A cause of death has not yet been determined.

METRO EDMONTON

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A snow-grooming machine works yesterday to prepare Snow Valley ski area for its opening day.

Skiers can hit white stuff tonight

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

Hundreds of skiers and snowboarders still itching at the chance to hit the slopes in Edmonton are expected to pour into Snow Valley tonight for the first time this season.

With no snow and balmy

temperatures eating away at the hill's man-made snow within the last few weeks, it's the latest start ever for Snow Valley in 25 years.

As the mercury remained below zero overnight Wednesday, the hill's marketing co-ordinator said workers were, however, able to make

700,000 gallons of man-made white stuff.

"We've been making snow within the last few weeks and we just haven't been able to make enough of it," said Chad Michaud with Snow Valley.

"We've made some good headway now and are looking pretty good for (tonight's opening.)"

Man dragged by truck identified

NO CHARGES A man struck and killed by a semi-tractor trailer in Sherwood Park on Wednesday has been identified.

The victim has been identified as 44-year-old Willie Wiebe of Winkler, Man.

Wiebe was struck down, dragged 150 metres, then run over by the semi at the Flying J Travel Plaza around 7:30 a.m.

Strathcona County RCMP will not be laying charges against the driver of the big rig.

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
/METRO EDMONTON

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Read today's news highlights in Metro Snapshot
Movies showtimes, trailers reviews and tickets at metronews.ca/movies
Watch highlights from the Tories' fiscal update at metronews.ca/canada



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Premier says bail 'em out

4 local

Ed Stelmach encouraged the feds to move ahead with an auto-industry bailout yesterday, citing the possibility of nationwide problems caused by a lack of cost-cutting measures in the federal fiscal update. **METRO EDMONTON**

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Cops bust
drug dealers

COCAINE Edmonton Police Services Drug Section and Tactical Unit officers busted three men with drugs equaling almost \$100,000 Wednesday night.

After spotting a potential drug deal between two men, one on foot and one in a car, near 109 Street and 103 Avenue, officers pulled the car over, and were led to a nearby apartment.

A search warrant was executed on a suite in the same area, which revealed 157 grams of cocaine worth about \$10,000.

Officers also found eight pounds of pot, worth an estimated \$24,000.

Additionally, 1,140 grams of cocaine were found in the vehicle.

In total, drugs with a street value of more than \$90,000 were seized.

METRO EDMONTON

Speeders clocked
at about 200 km/h

STREET RACING Two drivers racing along Anthony Henday Drive were busted at warp speed Wednesday.

The speeders were caught on the Henday near 142 Street, driving side-by-side almost double the speed limit just after 11 p.m.

The driver of a Corvette was caught at 203 km/h, and the driver of a Mitsubishi was caught at 198 km/h in a 100 km/h zone, according to police.

Both drivers face mandatory court appearances.

METRO EDMONTON

Charity **Lengthy donation**

BEN LEMPHERS/FOR METRO EDMONTON

Eight-year-old Sadie Carfagno has her hair cut by a classmate at George P. Nicholson school. The Grade 2 student had been growing it for some time to donate to Wigs For Kids. Wigs for Kids is a non-profit organization in the U.S. that provides hair-replacement systems to children.

Ottawa needs leaders: Stelmach

JEFF CUMMINGS
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Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach says federal politicians need to be leaders in dealing with the economic crisis rather than forcing Canadians into another election.

The Canadian economy slipped into recession and the federal coffers are on the verge of running dry for the first time in 13 years, the feds said yesterday in a report that raised the prospect of an early election.

Even so, the government

"Now, all of a sudden, they're playing politics with the economy of the country."

Ed Stelmach

forecast the budget would show a tiny surplus in the next fiscal year, a surprise after it prepared the country for the possibility of renewed deficits.

But opposition leaders have vowed to vote against Ottawa's economic and fiscal update, forcing Cana-

ans into another election.

Stelmach suspects if the federal government doesn't resolve this issue, the markets will go down again.

"Now, all of a sudden, they're playing politics with the economy of the country," he said, admitting he held back from swearing after hearing the opposition's position. "I hope someone cares about the country of Canada, somebody, somewhere in Parliament."



Watch highlights from the Tories fiscal update at metronews.ca/canada



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6 local

U of A students, professors unite against cluster munitions
Three-hundred fifty students and professors at the U of A signed post cards or petitions urging Ottawa to ratify the Treaty to Ban Cluster Munitions after a two-day Red Cross awareness campaign. METRO EDMONTON

Study assesses avalanche risk

Contrary to popular belief, men do listen to women. Being accompanied by a woman decreases a man's risk of being caught in an avalanche by 2.5 times, according to new University of Calgary research.

"Women are more generally risk averse than men, and so I think their voices are being heard," said university avalanche public awareness co-ordinator Albi Sole, who just compiled his master's degree research by interviewing 447 skiers, profiling those at the highest risk for falling victim to an avalanche. His findings showed young professional men between 25 and 29 years old who make about \$10,000 more than the provincial average are most likely to be involved in avalanche incidents.

Having a woman with you reduces the risk, having avalanche training doesn't, said Sole, though adamant training may save your life.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CANADA

Thrill, meet risk

- Thrill-seekers are seven times more likely to find themselves in an avalanche than those seeking sheer physical or psychological enjoyment, Sole said, adding the overall risk is overstated.

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A full-page advertisement for H&M. The background is a photograph of a man with short dark hair, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a light grey crewneck sweater over a white collared shirt, a grey chunky knit scarf, and a dark-colored vest with a large argyle pattern in shades of green and blue. He is also wearing dark trousers. To the left, another man with a beard and long hair is partially visible, looking down. The setting appears to be an interior space with wooden paneling. The text 'Sweater \$39.90' is overlaid on the left side. The H&M logo and the slogan 'MOST FASHIONABLE GIFTS' are in the bottom right corner.

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Ontario MPPs yesterday pushed a rare bipartisan effort to curb easily accessible small cigars that are imported from the U.S. and India, and cost between \$1 and \$1.25 a piece. The private members bill says the candy-flavoured cigars target youth. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada



Do-not-call list complaints pile up

Thousands of Canadians have called the CRTC to complain about its newly launched do-not-call list, with some saying they are receiving more calls than ever after having registered with the service. The do-not-call list allows Canadians to add their phone numbers — both landline and wireless — to a database that is circulated to telemarketers. A telemarketer that calls a number on the list is liable for a fine up to \$15,000.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Tories face backlash over plan

A political standoff that could spark an election has erupted as opposition politicians rejected a Conservative fiscal package that delays help for the struggling economy and proposes to eliminate public funding for political parties.

Liberals, New Democrats and the Bloc Québécois united in opposition yesterday to what they called a "mean-spirited" Conservative plan that also includes a clampdown on MPs' pay and a ban on strikes by federal government workers for two years.

Last night, a sense of urgency prevailed as emboldened opposition politicians openly mused about forming a coalition government. NDP Leader Jack Layton cancelled a trip to Van-



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, left, shakes hands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper after delivering the government's fiscal update in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

couver so he could be in Ottawa today to talk strategy with other opposition leaders.

Barring a compromise, the minority Conservatives

could be toppled in a confidence vote on Monday night, opening the way to a change of government or a snap election less than two months after the Oct.

14 vote. Opposition MPs said they'll decide their next steps after seeing the legislation that will accompany the fiscal update.

The politicians will get their first peek at that today with a vote scheduled Monday.

Indeed, there was speculation about whether the three opposition parties would be able to form an ax cord or coalition to replace the Conservatives in power. In the 308-seat Commons, the Conservatives hold 143 seats, while the Liberals have 77, the Bloc Québécois 49 and the NDP, 37. There are two independent MPs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Watch highlights from the Tories' fiscal update at metronews.ca/canada

Canadian actor hurt in attacks

MUMBAI Actor Michael Rudder has spent decades on a spiritual journey in search of peace and serenity, so his close friends say it's horribly ironic that he would be shot three times by terrorists on a meditation trip to India.

The 58-year-old Genie award-nominated Montreal actor travelled to India with a group from the U.S.-based Synchronicity Foundation for a retreat at the upscale Oberoi Hotel.

Rudder was staying at the hotel in Mumbai when he was shot in the intestine abdomen, arm and leg

by militants who targeted numerous spots in the city Wednesday. He underwent surgery and is in stable condition in hospital, the foundation said.



Michael Rudder

One other Canadian was wounded in the attacks.

Unconfirmed reports say as many as six other Canadians are unaccounted for.

TORSTAR

News in brief

HAWKING Internationally renowned physicist Stephen Hawking has accepted a post of distinguished research chair at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ont.

COLLAPSE The Quebec government says it sent a memo two years ago to building owners, warning of the potential for the same type of parking-lot collapse that killed a Montreal man Wednesday.

REUTERS

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BEAUTY
at the Bay

An eight-year-old German schoolboy who wanted to complain to his mother about being sent out of class took his teacher's car and crashed it, police said. The boy stole the 40-year-old teacher's car key when she wasn't looking and managed to start up her compact car, accelerating and putting the vehicle into first gear. **REUTERS**

World



Subways to be used as housing

Ten Beijing subway trains that were phased out ahead of the Olympics will be used as makeshift housing over the winter for around 1,200 victims of May's devastating earthquake, local media said yesterday. A total of 60 subway cars are being retrofitted with bunk beds to house residents of Guangyuan, Sichuan province, said the Beijing Youth Daily.

REUTERS

Leaked notes creates scandal

SARKOZY Czech weekly Reflex yesterday published leaked notes from a meeting between French President Nicolas Sarkozy and the Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek in Paris on Oct. 31. According to the magazine, Sarkozy said: "Do you know what it means to be alone against all Arabs? To have them on the phone? Arabs are terrible, I assure you."

The whole scandal could be caused by mistranslation. The French meaning of the sentence "ils sont terrible" does not have the same negative meaning as in Czech, and translates as something more like "they are quite something."

Franck Louvier, Sarkozy's press officer, said to Metro: "I knew the story, it's a complete lie."

METRO WORLD NEWS

News in brief

AIRPORTS Protesters laying siege to Bangkok's two airports braced for a battle with security forces yesterday

after Thailand's prime minister declared a state of emergency to end a blockade threatening to cripple the economy. **REUTERS**

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India looks for answers

India remains on high alert today as investigators, joined by terrorism experts from around the world, strive to learn more about the shadowy group of terrorists who attacked a series of symbolic, high-profile targets in the country's financial capital of Mumbai.

The gunmen, identified by officials as suspected Muslim militants, attacked five-star hotels the Taj Mahal and Trident-Oberoi, along with the headquarters of an ultra-orthodox Jewish outreach group, Chabad Lubavitch, and a railway station.

Several terrorists were captured alive, according to Indian officials.

India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh blamed "external" forces — code for Pakistani militants — for the violence.

But Pakistan's government, which condemned the attacks, warned India against jumping to conclusions about who was responsible.

Survivors and witnesses say the gunmen went around specifically looking for American and British citizens in the attacks, which at last word claimed



Schoolchildren hold candles during a vigil yesterday held in memory of the victims of Wednesday's shootings in Mumbai, India's financial capital.

121 lives and left 279 injured, including several Canadians.

"They have AK-47s and grenades," said local military commander Maj. Gen. R.K. Hooda. "They have bags full of grenades and have come fully prepared."

During the day commandoes brought hostages, trapped guests and corpses out of the hotels in small groups while fires erupted periodically and firefighters braved bullets to battle the flames.

Last night a team of FBI bomb and forensics experts left Los Angeles for Mumbai to help with the

investigation, even as analysts around the world were debating whether the gunmen — described as young and ordinary — could have been linked to al-Qaida.

"It's clear that it is al-Qaida style," said Rohan Gunaratna of the International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore and author of the book Inside Al-Qaida.

"Yesterday's attack is a watershed because, for the first time, the terrorists deliberately attacked international targets," Gunaratna said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

The lucky ones

Survivors tell their stories

• Archit Guha is counting his blessings.

The Mumbai student and a group of his pals had planned on going to the Leopold Café on Wednesday night for a friend's birthday. Instead, they decided to go on Saturday night.

"As luck would have it, we decided not to go out," Guha, 18, said yesterday. "It's spine-chilling."

Guha says the most disturbing aspect of the terrorist attacks was the apparent youth of many of the attackers.

• Jaspreet Singh's friend, Karan Katyal, a chef at the Oberoi Hotel, had just narrowly escaped death.

According to Singh, Katyal was in the kitchen when he heard the first gunshots. When he came out to check what was happening, the gunmen turned their weapons Katyal's way.

"He was pulled back in the nick of time and somehow managed to avoid getting shot," Singh related. "He ran to the back and waited four hours before being rescued."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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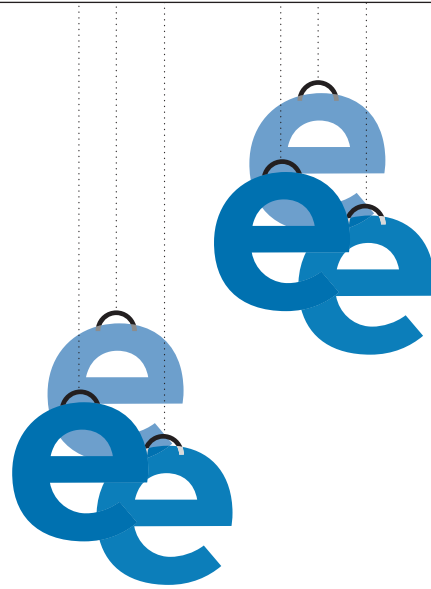
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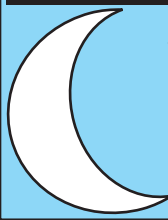
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Three Singaporeans were jailed yesterday after being charged with contempt of court for showing up at Singapore's Supreme Court wearing T-shirts depicting kangaroos in judges' robes. The men were each handed 15 days' imprisonment. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Two dead in Taliban strike

HELMAND Two British soldiers were killed in a Taliban attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday, the Ministry of Defence said.

The two Royal Marines were on foot patrol in Helmand province, a volatile

region of Afghanistan, when they came under attack from insurgents.

The deaths raise the number of British troops killed in the conflict since it began in late 2001 to at least 128.

REUTERS

Jordan Group wedding



A couple dance during a mass wedding in Amman yesterday. Four pairs of physically disabled couples celebrated their wedding in a ceremony organized by the Jordanian Society for People with Special Needs.

U.S. soldier seeks asylum

A U.S. soldier who deserted his unit to avoid returning to Iraq has applied for asylum in Germany, saying the Iraq war was illegal and that he could not support the "heinous acts" taking place.

Andre Shepherd, 31, who served in Iraq between September 2004 and February 2005 as an Apache helicopter mechanic in the 412th Aviation Support Battalion, has been living in Germany since deserting last year.

"When I read and heard about people being ripped to shreds from machine

guns or being blown to bits by the Hellfire missiles, I began to feel ashamed about what I was doing," Shepherd said.

According to U.S. law, soldiers who desert during a time of war can face the death penalty.

Shepherd said he was hopeful he would be granted asylum in Germany, a staunch opponent of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Shepherd is only the second U.S. soldier to have applied to Germany for asylum in a similar situation. The earlier application was later withdrawn.

REUTERS

News in brief

SCAM China has executed the leader of a bogus scheme for breeding ants to make aphrodisiacs that conned investors out of 3 billion yuan (\$439 mil-

lion US), the country's official news agency said yesterday. Wang Zhendong was executed on Wednesday.

REUTERS

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World's oldest person dies in U.S. at age 115

The world's oldest person, an Indiana woman, died on Wednesday at the age of 115. Edna Parker, a former school teacher, was born on April 20, 1893. The oldest living person is now 115-year-old Maria de Jesus of Portugal, who was born on Sept. 10, 1893. **REUTERS**

Suspected Kosovo bombers freed

Three German intelligence agents arrested in Kosovo on suspicion of throwing explosives at an EU office will be released and will return home today, a German newspaper said.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung, citing government officials in Pristina, said in an early issue of its Friday edition that the

three would be released for lack of evidence.

Earlier, Thomas Oppermann, who chairs the German parliamentary committee overseeing intelligence operations, said the government had informed the committee the three worked for Germany's BND intelligence agency. He declined to say what

Independence

- Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in February and is recognized by more than 50 countries, including Germany.

their assignment had been. The explosive charge was thrown on Nov. 14 at

the International Civilian Office, the office of EU Special Representative Pieter Feith, who oversees Kosovo's governance. It caused only minor damage.

"We don't have any indication that the three German officials in Kosovo had any connection to the attack," said Oppermann.

REUTERS

News in brief

GAY MARRIAGE Over the next three years, about 32,200 same-sex couples will travel to

Massachusetts to marry, a study predicts.

REUTERS

Iran welcomes talks with Obama

NUCLEAR Iran would welcome talks between its President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, the country's vice president, Esfandiar Rahim Mashaie said.

Iran has repeatedly refused to bow to Western pressure to halt its nuclear program, which many fear is aimed at making nuclear weapons. Obama this month called for an international effort to stop Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb. Analysts believe Iran could be as little as one or two years from stockpiling enough enriched uranium to use for a bomb.

REUTERS

Thanksgiving To a safe return



Space Shuttle Endeavour astronauts Don Pettit, left, and Stephen Bowen make a Thanksgiving toast aboard the International Space Station yesterday.

REUTERS / NASA

Babies are Africa's malaria warriors

TEST An army of babies has been enlisted to test a new vaccine researchers hope will help drive back malaria, one of Africa's biggest killers.

The vaccine will be rolled out early next year. Researchers hope results from the trial, involving 16,000 children in seven African countries and funded by groups supported by the Gates Foundation, will mirror data from a 2004 study in Mozambique. That study of more than 2,000 children showed the vaccine reduced all cases of clinical malaria by 35 per cent and the worst cases by almost 50 per cent.

REUTERS

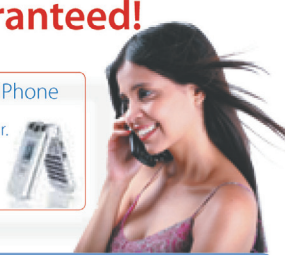


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Comment & Views

Comment

What world in 2009?

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

Back before too much work and parenting-induced penury reduced both free time and spare cash, I used to read at least 40 magazines a month. These days, there's a scant few I pick up regularly, and most of these end up barely scanned before ending up in a bin in the living room, waiting for those leisurely weekends that won't come until

my daughters are in college.

One of the few remaining titles I pick up regularly is *The Economist's* annual exercise in prognostication, and this year's edition — the authoritatively-titled *The World In 2009* — hit the newsstands this week.

Like its predecessors, it's thick with essays, all confidently delivered, telling us to expect more bad economic news in the year to come, with global workforces shrinking with age, Iran edging ever closer to a nuclear bomb, and luxury brands taking a beating.

This year's special section is devoted to the environment; last year's was focused on China. It'll get picked at for the next month or so, af-

ter which it'll end up on a shelf, next to *The World In 2008*, 2007, 2006 and so on.

I hold on to these issues as keepsakes of the conventional wisdom, collected and codified on the eve of the largely arbitrary turnover of another calendar year, since they often prove to be poor almanacs for the year to come. According to *The World In 2008*, for instance, Hillary Clinton was the likely bet to lead the Democrats into the White House, since "both Mr. Obama and Mr. Edwards come across as too lightweight." Time may prove if even a wrong prediction might still contain a kernel of insight.

The 2008 issue predicted that "record rates of mort-

gage defaults and repossessions will be the most visible symbol of a deepening housing bust," an oraculation that can be faulted not so much for its accuracy as its timidity.

There's barely a mention of terrorism in *The World In 2001*, which set the tone for that year with an editorial essay summing up the economic bounty we could expect in the year to come: "Nerve-racking it may be, but this is surely a golden age," wrote Clive Crook, the magazine's deputy editor. Nerve-racking it was — little did you know, Mr. Crook.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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Views

Edmontonians do not trust city to do the right thing

The current Dub-ious proposal aside, the discussion of the desirability of a downtown arena illustrates the best and worst of Edmonton. On the one hand, we have a city that's chock-a-block with creative ideas. On the other, we have a vociferous cadre of anti-just-about-everything reactionaries shouting "Not with my tax dollars you don't!"

Over the years, any number of groups have put forth proposals that could and would make this one of the

best places to live on the continent. However, these proposals often require the use of taxpayer dollars. Whenever that's the case, it creates a huge negative reaction. Though I think that kind of negativity keeps us from going forward toward a better future, I can understand its genesis.

Many Edmontonians see the use of taxpayers' dollars for a downtown arena or a tippy-glass-pyramid welcome mat as a zero sum game in

UrbanCompass

Terence Harding



which someone wins and they lose. For them, every dollar that goes into a "non-essential" is a dollar that can't be spent on fixing sidewalks or clearing roads.

These Edmontonians do not trust the city to either do the right thing or to do the right thing well. For them, these projects are just financial sinkholes that will gobble up precious tax dollars and make the city a worse not a better place to live.

Should this come as surprise to anyone? I think not. A trip out to that massive traffic boondoggle called South Edmonton Common would make anyone wonder what kind of smarts re-

side in the city planning department. Apparently we are one of the few places on the earth where planners believe that "If you build it, they will not come."

As our city grows, we are going to need to create more cultural and entertainment venues. We will need to offer more support for the arts. We will need to provide Edmontonians with more "non-essential" diversions and way more fun. However, until this city

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clearly demonstrates that it's well managed, that's not going to happen. Not with tax dollars, anyway.

Terence Harding is a corporate communicator and has been a radio and television talk show host, newspaper columnist, and radio commentator. He is a keen observer of all things Edmonton.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

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Burlington, Ont., Hyundai is offering a minivan at full price, plus a subcompact car for free today and Saturday. The general manager of the lot said the offer "pulls us out of the herd" and spurs auto sales before they plunge as expected. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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U.S. retailers lure Canadians with sales

With U.S. consumers in a funk, retailers south of the border have stepped up efforts to lure Canadians into their stores and websites today for "Black Friday," the busiest shopping days on the American calendar.

But they could be in for a

tough fight. Canadian retailers are striking back with deeper discounts and longer store hours to instill thoughts of U.S.-style Thanksgiving savings in consumers' minds.

Some Canadian retailers, such as Sears, are even going so far as to say they're

offering Boxing Day-style savings this weekend.

Darrel Ryce with The NPD Group has noticed Canadian retailers making an effort to hold onto their customers. "I think a lot of it has to do with getting the dollar out of that person's wallet now, before they

spend it somewhere else."

On the U.S. side, where retail sales have fallen dramatically in recent months, mall owners were offering free \$20 US gift certificates, or advertising U.S. Thanksgiving deals in Canadian newspapers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Loblaws to charge for plastic bags

GROCERY Loblaws Co. said yesterday that it will start charging customers a five-cent fee for every plastic shopping bag they use.

The company said it would begin charging customers on April 22, 2009, which is Earth Day.

The company said it would also encourage customers to use alternatives to plastic bags and enhance its offer of affordable reusable-bag options.

Loblaws currently offers reusable fabric bags to all its customers for a small fee.

"We believe this ... represents the next natural step forward as we continue to acknowledge and respond to Canadians' desire to support environmental initiatives," Galen Weston, Loblaws executive chairman, announced in a release.

REUTERS

Smart Cars Rising above the rest



VINCENT KESSLER/REUTERS

Smart Cars are seen on display next to the Smart Cars factory in Hambach, France, yesterday.

In brief

LAYOFFS The Canadian unit of Citigroup is cutting 12 investment banking jobs, the latest in a series of industry downsizings, as the New York-based company sheds thousands of positions worldwide. **REUTERS**

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International cricket in India will go into recess for at least two weeks in the wake of terror attacks in Mumbai. England and India officials agreed in an emergency meeting yesterday to postpone the last two matches of their international series. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



'We're talking about practice, man'

Allen Iverson missed a mandatory Detroit Pistons practice on U.S. Thanksgiving yesterday, and will be fined by the team, coach Michael Curry said. In May 2002, the then-Philadelphia 76er Iverson launched into a famous rant during a news conference, responding to criticism he had taken for missing several practices. Curry also said Iverson will not start tonight against Milwaukee.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Cowboys, Titans, Eagles all win big

NFL Tony Romo threw three touchdowns as the Dallas Cowboys destroyed the Seattle Seahawks, 34-9 in U.S. Thanksgiving Day action yesterday. Romo went 22-for-34 with 331 yards for the Cowboys (8-4), who have won three straight.

In Detroit, Tennessee crushed the Lions 47-10. Chris Johnson racked up 125 yards while LenDale White gained 106 yards for the Titans, who dropped Detroit to 0-12 on the year.

In Philadelphia, the Eagles pounded the Arizona Cardinals 48-20, with Donovan McNabb throwing four touchdown passes and Brian Westbrook tying a team record with four scores. McNabb had been benched a week ago.

Sports in brief

HOCKEY Brian Burke has reportedly signed a contract with the Maple Leafs that will have the former Anaheim GM take over as Toronto's president and general manager.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taking hockey know-how to China

Nova Scotia coach finds ticket to Vancouver with the Chinese women's national team

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Paul Strople's friends told him he was crazy. Moving to China to coach the country's national women's hockey team?

"They'd say, 'What are you going there for? You have everything here,'" the 41-year-old Halifax native recalls. Strople had a wife, children and a job coaching bantam AAA hockey in Nova Scotia when Chinese hockey officials came calling last summer, but he couldn't turn them down.

He had already spent the 2004-05 season behind the national team bench, but wanted to go back for a second tour to lead China to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

"It was something that had been on my mind for four years," says Strople, who fell short in his bid for the Turin Games in 2006. "I wanted the challenge to prove to myself I could get to the Olympics. That was



Paul Strople's China squad qualified for the Vancouver Games earlier this month.

my biggest drive."

Strople got there — and his friends finally understand. "Now, when they send me an e-mail or call ... They're saying, 'Hey, if you need a water boy, a stick boy, or an assistant, I can take time off for the Olympics,'" Strople laughs.

China punched its ticket to Vancouver earlier this month at the final qualifier in Shanghai. Strople calls it the "biggest moment" of his coaching career, an odyssey that began in 1996 and includes stops in the Netherlands, Germany and Iceland.

With Strople's wife and children often living in the Halifax area, family sacrifices have been the biggest hurdle.

"When you go four months without seeing your family, it's a long haul," Strople said.

"But my wife's been very

supportive of my career."

The language barrier was another major obstacle, but Strople has noticed a big difference in his second tour of duty.

Although he has a full-time interpreter, he barely needs one anymore. That's because a handful of the team's star players have spent time playing professionally in Canada in recent years — helping not only their on-ice skills but also their English.

"They understand me better than they understand the interpretation. Now, they're telling the interpreter, 'You don't need to translate for us.'"

Strople loves coaching and would relish an opportunity to get a job behind the bench at the university level closer to home.

His appearance at the Olympics likely won't hurt his cause.

"It could open a lot of doors," he says. "It's a great achievement for me and it will be a very big point on my resume."

Coach says Kobe's more 'we-we' than 'me-me'

Obscured by the fact that the Los Angeles Lakers have catapulted to a remarkable, NBA-best 12-1 start is **Kobe Bryant's** slump.

Yep, production by the Lakers' marquee player is down across the board. Yet the Lakers are winning, and usually by huge margins.

"Kobe seems to under-

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

stand now that if it's not his night, he has to help the other guys play well," Lakers coach **Phil Jackson** told

me yesterday. "He's become more of a we-we guy and less of a me-me guy."

• Although kicker **Sandro DeAngelis** is commanding lots of attention down south, he's telling everyone and anyone that he'll return to Calgary for his fifth year with the Stampeders unless he is guaranteed a respectable signing bonus from an NFL club.

For more on DeAngelis,

check out my latest CFL Report at www.metronews.ca.

• A new offer for megabucks has been made to NHL free agent **Mats Sundin**, who likely will narrow his list of possibilities to three teams next week. He's eyeing a January return. Besides Tampa Bay, clubs pursuing him include the Toronto Maple Leafs, Ottawa Senators, Vancouver Canucks, Montreal

Canadiens, Philadelphia Flyers, Chicago Blackhawks, New York Rangers, New York Islanders and Anaheim Ducks.

And I only have one word about the Leafs' decision to hire the irascible **Brian Burke** as club bossman:

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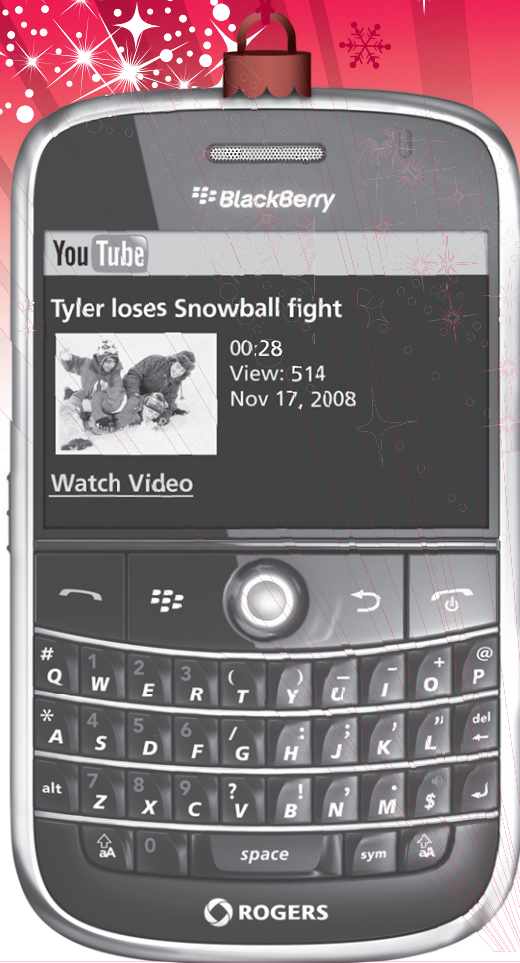
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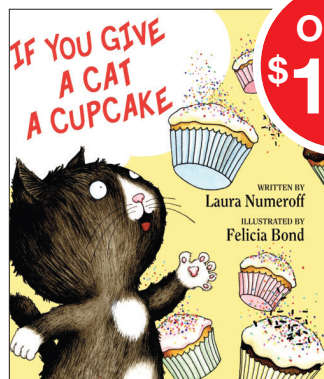


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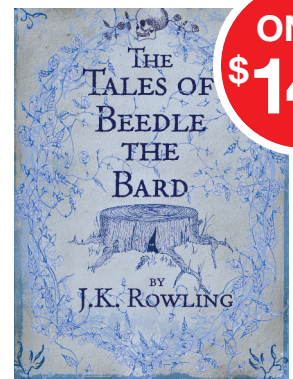
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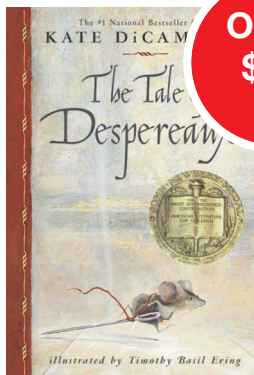
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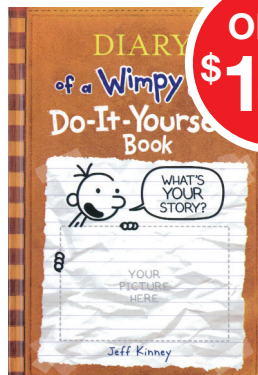
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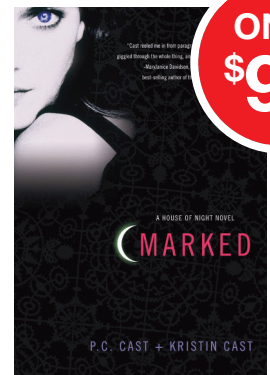
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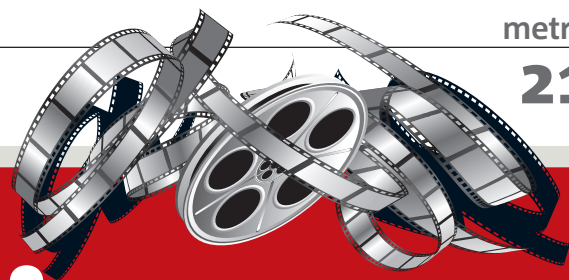
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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.



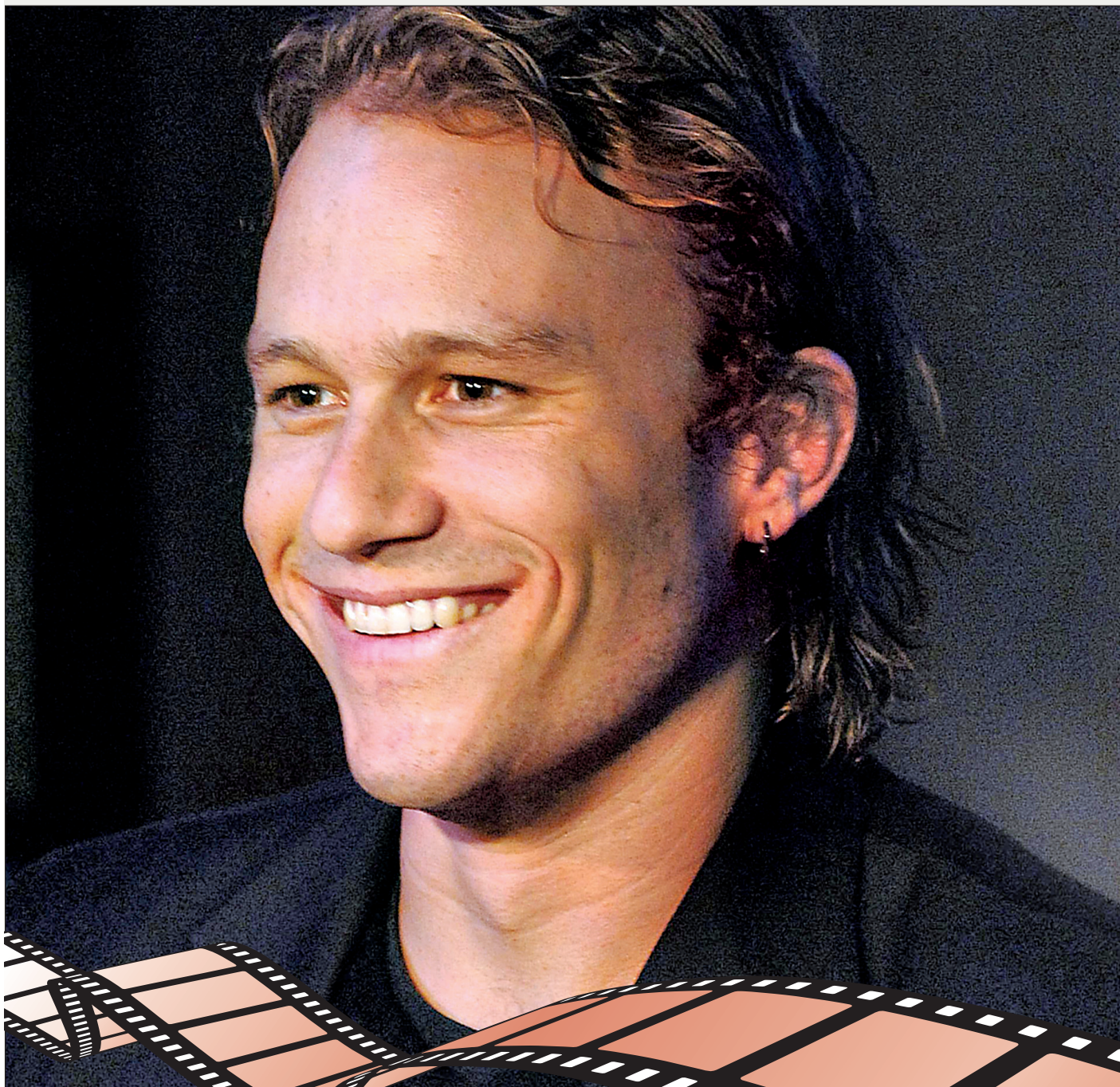
Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

I dream of Oscar

Pg 22



DARRYL JAMES/GETTY IMAGES

Metro's movie writers weigh in on the upcoming awards season for the top categories: Best actor, Best actress, Best director, Best picture and a Wild Card — which some think may end up going to the late Heath Ledger.

movies

Pg 23



Actress finds herself in many rough and tough roles.

music

Pg 27



Metro columnist Alan Cross offers his own gift list.

movies

Pg 24



This year might go down in history for politics being hip.



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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

And the nominees are ...

Who deserves to win during the upcoming awards season

While most people are thinking about the holidays at this time of year, Hollywood is thinking about statues and accolades.

The annual award season is about to kick off, with Golden Globe nominations being handed down in mid-December, and Oscar predictions already being made.

Metro asked its movie reviewers — Richard Crouse, Steve Gow, Chris Alexander and Rick McGinnis — to weigh-in on who they think deserves props this year.

Best actress

CROUSE: Anne Hathaway's intense, unvarnished performance in Rachel Getting Married reveals the pain that lurks beneath the character's goth-like exterior. She's tough and fragile; someone who is able to live with past sins,

but can't get over them. It's the award caliber performance she has hinted at before but never delivered.

ALEXANDER: Angelina Jolie for Changeling or Meryl Streep for Doubt. Good movies, and blistering performances in both films.

MCGINNIS: If Kate Winslet gets nominated for both The Reader and Revolutionary Road, it's not hard to see how she won't blow past Keira Knightley or Nicole Kidman.

Best actor

ALEXANDER: It needs to go to my favorite underdog, Mickey Rourke, in The Wrestler. Will it? Maybe ... Hollywood loves comebacks. By that same token, I hold a special place in my heart for Jean-Claude Van Damme in JCVD. It won't happen but man was he good.

GOW: Frank Langella for Frost/Nixon. After winning the Tony Award for playing this role on Broadway, the 70-year-old screen legend is due to make his mark in cinema as well. Besides, with a film career that goes back 38 years, he's owed a statuette or two.

MCGINNIS: Playing gay is the way to go — just ask Tom Hanks — and Leonardo DiCaprio doesn't have a lot of love these days, so let's call it for Sean Penn in Milk.

Best director

CROUSE: Slumdog Millionaire is Danny Boyle's most complex movie yet, encompassing everything from romance to action, comedy to anguish, treachery, greed and yes, even a musical number (stay through the credits). It's a wild ride featuring Boyle's hyper visual style.

ALEXANDER: Chris Nolan re-defined the parameters of mainstream pulp cinema with The Dark Knight, but I also adore the great Darren Aronofsky for The Wrestler. He deserves every accolade he gets.

Best picture

CROUSE: WALL-E is the first art film for kids I have ever seen. The story of a lonely robot that inadvertently gives humankind a second chance is aimed at children but doesn't look like any other kid's movie you've seen. It's 2001: A Space Odyssey for children.

GOW: Slumdog Millionaire. This dark horse may surprise a few folks, but certainly not those who have seen it. Crowds have been going wild for it and if it can ride out the hype Slumdog may just sneak itself a few big fat awards.



Anne Hathaway in Rachel Getting Married is deserving of awards this year, movie reviewer Richard Crouse says.

Hey, it worked for Crash a couple years ago.

ing chaos than in anything else.

Wild card

CROUSE: (Best Supporting Actor) Heath Ledger's Joker in The Dark Knight is a super villain for the new millennium; a terrorist, more interested in creat-

GOW: (Best Documentary) Man on Wire is about an acrobat who broke into the World Trade Center and traversed the top of the towers on a high wire in 1974.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Quote of the week

"Sometime really good writing does you a disservice as an actor. Because you can get lazy. It's doing a lot of the work for you. I guess that's good. But at the same time with material that's not so good, you have to be more inventive, because no thought has been applied to it ... So the first reading of (Doubt) was particularly exciting. I thought, 'Oh whoo! I don't need to do anything.' Wrong."

MERYL STEEP, WHO PLAYS SISTER ALOYSIUS BEAUVIER IN THE MOVIE ADAPTATION OF THE PLAY, DOUBT. IT HITS THEATRES THIS MONTH.

NEWSBLAZE.COM



A glutton for punishment

Julie Benz back with the boys in Punisher: War Zone

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Not only does Julie Benz play yin to a serial killer's yang in the hit TV show Dexter, but she also starred opposite the most macho of manly men earlier this year in Rambo. Now the soft-spoken actress is playing accomplice to yet another rugged he-man in Punisher: War Zone — hitting theatres next Friday.

"I seem to be getting vigilante themes surrounding me in my work," says Benz over the phone from New York recently. "It's because I'm so light in real life."

She may be joking but there isn't much to laugh about in Punisher: War Zone. Although it's the third cinematic adaptation of the vengeance-filled Marvel Comics character, Benz insists this is not a

Movie feature

sequel — "It's just a very gritty urban retelling of the Punisher tale," she says.

"This is not just an action film, this is a film about a man whose family was completely annihilated," says Benz of the Punisher's origin. "He takes on vigilante justice and is still struggling with the loss of his family so there's real heart to the role of Frank Castle (The Punisher)."

In War Zone, an evil mob boss that Castle (Ray Stevenson of HBO's Rome) left horribly disfigured forms a vengeful crime syndicate. When a cop's wife (Benz) and her child are kidnapped by the foe, the unpredictable Punisher must reluctantly rescue the pair.

"Even though you could look at (my) films and say genre-wise they're very related, the characters I

play in them are very different," says Benz. "In The Punisher, my character's a lot tougher. She's a fighter and she's willing to do anything to save her daughter."

As if its legacy wasn't enough, Punisher is also gaining notice with its female filmmaker Lexi Alexander. Not only is the former kickboxing champion-turned-director making her big studio debut, but many say she's an unusual choice to helm such a violent movie.

"On many levels, (she's) very appropriate. I mean, she is a martial artist so when it came to the fight sequences — these sequences look like street fighting, not stunt fighting," defends Benz.

"Also I think you needed a woman to wrangle all the (male) egos floating around — the fact that they knew she could kick their ass, they did what she said."



Julie Benz plays the kidnapped wife of a police officer in the action film Punisher: War Zone.

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Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes, Digital Presentation Fri 4:40-7-9:20 No Passes, Digital Presentation Sat-Sun 2:10-4:40-7-9:20 Digital Presentation Mon-Thu 4:40-7-9:20

Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4-4:50-6:40-7:10-9-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:20-2:20-4-4:50-6:40-7:10-9-9:35 Mon-Thu 4-4:50-6:40-7:10-9-9:35

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:15-6:45-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:15-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:15-6:45-9:10

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 4:10-6:50-7:20-9:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-7:20-9:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-7:20-9:30-9:50

Role Models (14A) Fri 4:25 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:25 Mon-Thu 4:25

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:45-7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:45-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:15-9:45

Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri 3:50-4:20-6:35-7:05-9:15-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-1:40-3:50-4:20-6:35-7:05-9:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:50-4:20-6:35-7:05-9:15-9:40

GARNEAU THEATRE

8712 - 109 St., 780-433-2212

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 2-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9

METRO CINEMA

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson in a scene from Twilight, which is currently in theatres.

Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre Complex, 9828-101 Ave., 780-425-9212, metrocinema.org

I Served the King of England (STC) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 9 Mon 7-9:15

Mostly Water Presents: Metro Shorts (STC) Sat 9:30

Scenes From the Class Struggle in Portugal (STC) Sun 7

El Valley Centro (STC) Wed 8

What Would Jesus Buy? (STC) Thu 7-9

MOVIES 12

5074 130 Ave., 780-472-9779

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:25-6:50-9:20-11:30 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:25-6:50-9:20

City of Ember (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:55

The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:20-7:40-11:20 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:40

Ghost Town (PG) Fri-Sat 2-4:30-7:25-9:50-12:10 Sun-Thu 2-4:30-7:25-9:50

NORTH EDMONTON CINEMAS

14231 137th Ave., 780-732-2236

Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:05-6:45

Lakeview Terrace (14A) Fri-Sat 1:55-4:40-7:20-9:55-12:15 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:40-7:20-9:55

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-4:15-7:05-9:35-11:55 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:05-9:35

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Fri-Sat 1:35-4:45-7:15-9:30-11:45 Sun-Thu 1:35-4:45-7:15-9:30

Quarantine (18A) Fri-Sat 2:05-4:50-7:30-10:12:05 Sun-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:30-10:12

RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:35-7:10-9:45-12 Sun-Thu 1:25-4:35-7:10-9:45

Sex Drive (18A) Fri-Sat 10-12:20 Sun-Thu 10-9:40

Step Brothers (14A) Fri-Sat 9:40-12 Sun-Thu 9:40

WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7-9:25

Yuvvraaj (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:25-7:45

Australia

(PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-2:30-4:6:20-8:30-10

Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:40-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15 No Passes Tue 2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:40-7:10-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-7

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:30-1:30-3-4:10-5:10-6:40-7:55-9:10-20 No Passes Tue 12:30-3-4:10-5:10-6:40-7:55-9:10-20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-1:30-3-4:10-5:10-6:40-7:55-9:10-20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:10-5:30-7:40-9:50

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-1:10-2:40-3:50-5:15-6:50-8-9:40-10:40

Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:30-10:05

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:35

Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-1:40-

Australia

(PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-2:30-4:6:20-8:30-10

Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:40-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15 No Passes Tue 2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:40-7:10-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-7

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-1:10-2:40-3:40-5:10-6:50-7:40-9:20-10:10 No Passes Mon 12:10-1:10-2:40-3:40-5:10-6:50-7:40-9:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:40-8:50

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: The IMAX Experience (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7-9:20

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-1:30-3:45-4:30-6:45-7:30-9:45-10:30

Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:45-7:45-10:20

Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed 4:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Wed 1:50-5:7:50-10:30 Thu 1:15-4-10:30

SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON

1525 99th St., 780-436-8585

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-2-5-6:30-9-10

Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:20 No Passes Tue 3:50-6:50-9:20 No Passes Wed 1-3:50-6:50-9:20 No Passes Thu 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:20 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-4:50-7:20-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:50-10:15 Mon 12:40-6:50-10:15 Tue-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:50-10:15

Death Note 2: The Last Name (14A) Wed

Australia

(PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:10-12:50-2:40-3:40-5-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:30 No Passes Tue 12:10-2:40-3:40-5-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:30 No Passes Wed 12:10-12:40-3:40-5-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:10-12:50-2:40-3:40-5-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 1:30

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-1:40-2:20-4:10-4:30-6:45-9:15

Munk Debates (STC) Mon 4:45

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-1-3:20-4-6:30-7-9:30-10

Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:15 Thu 1:45-4:10-10:15

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:15-10:10

Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:40-6:40-7:10-7:30-9:50-10:10-10:30 No Passes Wed 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:40-7:10-7:30-10:10-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:40-6:40-7:10-7:30-9:50-10:10-10:30

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Thu 4:25-7:40-10:20

TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE

Edmonton Space And Science Centre, 1121-142 St., 780-451-3344

The Alps (STC) Fri 4-8 Sat-Sun 12-4

Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Fri 1:30

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 3-7-9 Sat 11-1-3-5-7-9 Sun 11-1-3-5-7

Hurricane on the Bayou (STC) Fri 9:30

Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Fri 10:30 Sat 2-8 Sun 2

Mystic India IMAX (STC) Fri 11:30

Whales: An Unforgettable Journey (STC) Fri 12:30

WESTMOUNT CENTRE

111 Ave. & Groat Rd., 403-455-8726

Four Christmases (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:05-3:15-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45

Quantum of Solace (14A) DTS Digital Fri 7-9:35 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7-9:35 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 7-9:35

Transporter 3 (14A) DTS Digital Fri 6:50-9:15 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 12:55-3:25-6:50-9:15 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15

Twilight (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:40-9:25 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:35-6:40-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:40-9:25

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The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca

1. And Winter Came, Enya, right; 2. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 3. A Midwinter Night's Dream, Loreena McKennitt; 4. Chinese Democracy, Guns N' Roses; 5. Promise, Il Divo.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Music

Music notes for Christmas

SoundCheck

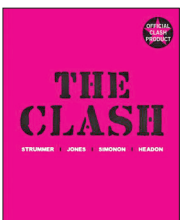
Alan Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

It's Black Friday in America, the traditional start of the full-contact holiday shopping frenzy. Even though for most Canadians it's just another day at work, the thought of working through the Christmas lists has no doubt begun to inspire that familiar mix of dread and nausea.

But I'm here to help. I've always been a big giver of books because I believe people need to read more. Feel free to tear out this page and use it as a shopping list.

• **For the Punk Fan:** The Clash

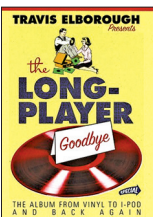


material keeps on coming. This year, there's a fantastic coffee table book (A coffee table book? About punk? And it's pink?) simply called The Clash. It's officially sanctioned by the band and its heirs and contains history, eye-witness accounts and photographs never before seen by anyone. Marvelous.

• **For the Turntable Freak:**

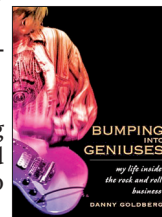
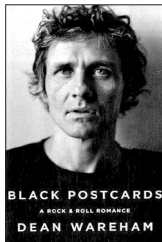
Vinyl records are back in vogue for a certain group of obsessives (yours truly included), something that has spawned a series of books that reflect on the importance of the LP. Among the best is The Long-Player Goodbye: The Album from Vinyl to iPod and Back Again by Travis Elborough. The title pretty much says it all.

• **For the Indie Fan:** Dean Wareham used to head up a couple of excellent American indie bands — Galaxie



500 and Luna — that fell between the cracks during the grunge revolution of the 90s. He's written a memoir detailing the experience in heartbreaking detail called Black Postcards: A Rock & Roll Romance. Rock writing doesn't get much more personal than this.

• **For the Outsider Looking In:** Danny Goldberg's resumé includes everything from doing PR for Led Zeppelin to running three major record labels. He also managed a series of bands from Fleetwood Mac (during the divorce years) to Nirvana (when Kurt died). His memoir, Bumping into Geniuses, also details encounters with Springsteen, Kiss, Patti



Smith and many others.

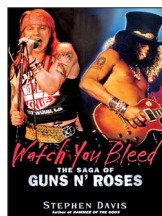
• **For the GnR Fan Who STILL Can't Get Enough:**

Stephen Davis, author of the definitive Zeppelin bio, Hammer of the Gods, returns with Watch You Bleed: The Saga of Guns N' Roses. Among his many observations is that he says the band began to fall apart as soon as Izzy Stradlin left.

• **For Those Who Would Rather Just Listen:** Sorry about the shameless plug, but The Alan Cross

Guide to Alternative Rock, Vols. 1-4 are out now. Audio books are great for the commute.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at exploremusic.com and ongoinghistory.com



Beyoncé tops chart

Beyoncé has scored her third straight No. 1 debut on the pop album chart with the double-disc I Am ... Sasha Fierce.

The Music World/Columbia album shifted a whopping 482,000 copies in the United States during the week ended Nov. 23, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The set, split between material credited to R&B star Beyoncé and her new alter-ego, Sasha Fierce, has already spawned the hits If I Were a Boy and Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It). Beyoncé's 2003,



Beyoncé

Dangerously in Love, started with 317,000, while 2006's B-Day moved 541,000.

In a week with seven top 20 debuts on the Billboard 200, Nickelback's Dark Horse sold 326,000 to start at No. 2. The rock outfit spent 156 weeks on the chart with previous album, 2005's All the Right Reasons.

REUTERS

Metro recommends

• **TAYLOR SWIFT, FEARLESS:**

Near perfect synergy of country twang and classy pop from a refreshingly open-hearted and golden-voiced teenager.



• **LIONESS, SELF-TITLED:**

Haunting chanteuse amps up dark disco-infused electronica grand enough to suit either the dancefloor or your headphones.



• **T-PAIN, THR33 RINGZ:**

Raspy auto-tuned MC delivers a jovial variety show of R&B love jams and hip-hop club bangers.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Late actor Heath Ledger's tragic death has reportedly inspired a new episode of U.S. TV crime drama Law & Order. Ledger died from a prescription drug overdose in January. [IMDB.COM](#)

Television

TV viewers on the rise — well, duh

Intellevision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS: There are people who wouldn't consider it good news — I'm thinking of the nice but misguided souls be-

hind TV Turnoff Week, or whatever they're calling it now — but as someone who can't see the downside of people getting more and more of their entertainment in the comfort of their homes, I was happy to read early this week that a new Nielsen study says that Americans are watching more TV than ever.

Gary Homes, a spokesman for Nielsen,

told the Los Angeles Times business section that part of the reason is that there are more TVs in homes now.

"That means that little Suzie can watch Gossip Girl in her bedroom," the Times wrote, "while Mom watches Dancing with the Stars in the basement and Dad watches football in the den. There also are more and more niche channels, which means

more people are interested in the shows currently on TV, (Homes) said. This year, the Olympics and the political campaigns brought a lot of people to TVs who wouldn't necessarily have been watching so much."

All of which falls into the "duh" category, though for some reason it's easier for me to get away with a whole evening in front of the

"Internet viewing is also on the rise, and will probably persist as consumers trim back on entertainment expenses. You can file that news under obvious as well."

tube these days than it was when I was a kid, and sent to psychiatrists who were obsessed with then-voguish concerns about "TV addiction" and brain development. Maybe it's just because I'm the guy who pays for the TV these days — it's a good thing kids take years to learn about the benefits of property rights.

TV viewing on average is up about five hours a month from the same time last year, and time-shifted viewing is up 50 per cent, an increase that's likely to continue if the economy stays sour. Internet viewing is also on the rise, and will probably persist as consumers trim back on entertainment expenses. You can file that news under obvious as well.

A more epochal sign of the times is the news that Fox, likely leading the pack as usual, is putting an end to Saturday morning cartoons, a TV programming institution since the dawn of the medium.

Cable channels like Nickelodeon, Disney and the Cartoon Network, as well as Canadian networks such as YTV, Teletoon and Treehouse, have made the programming block obsolete, so Fox is turning it over to infomercials, and another cultural institution goes the way of late night movies, afterschool specials and Billy Graham specials on primetime.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Pop star Spears to spill in documentary

Rick's TV Picks

So you think You Can Dance

Air date: Dec. 3
Network: CTV

THE end is near, as the final four are about to become the final two. The big question: What will the show's fans do until the U.S. show resumes next summer?

Britney: For The Record

Air date: Nov. 30
Network: MuchMusic

BECAUSE nothing says cautionary tale like the story of the girl who made "ex-Mouseketeer" into a vaguely obscene epithet.

Barrio 19

Air date: Nov. 29
Network: MTV2

FROM HIP-HOPPERS and beat-boxers to free-stylers and free-runners, middle-class kids wannabes get to learn again why poor kids are cooler. **RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA**

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca and make sure not to miss the Mix of Six hot things to do this weekend.

FRIDAY

ED	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/28/08	2	CFRN	239 318	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order "Bling"		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	News (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	The Incredibles *** (2004, Adventure)	Voices of Craig T. Nelson.			
	4	CBXT	- 307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce-Final	Rick Mercer	Doctor Who		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		NUMB3RS
	7	CKEM	241 347	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		The Price Is Right Special		Crusoe		Your City
	8	CITV	240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	90210 "The Jet Set"		NUMB3RS (HDTV)		90210		News Hour
	12	CBXFT	119 705	A communiquer		Paquet voleur (HDTV) (SC)		Une heure sur Terre (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		T.J. Alberta
	13	KXLY	- 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	The Polar Express *** (2004, Fantasy)	Nona Gaye			20/20
	16	KAYU	- 373	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The School of Rock *** (2003, Comedy)	Jack Black			News (N)
	19	CHTV	-	The Insider (N)	Gemini Red	22nd Annual Genesis Awards		Heidi Klum: THS		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
news	22	KSPS	- 374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Being Served	Vicar of Dibley
	15	CBCTN	502	CBC News: The National		CBC News: The fifth estate		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		fifth estate
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	20	TSN	400 400	Basketball	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!		SportsCentre	Off the Record	Boxing: Barrera vs. Ventura		
	23	net	408 418	Saturday Night Poker		FSN Pro Football Preview		Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Ult. Fighter
	47	SPEED	417 406	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Pinks -- All Out
	94	SCORE	410 403	WWE SmackDown!		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		WWE SmackDown!		
	14	YTV	552 543	The Mighty B!	iCarly	Uptown Girls ** (2003, Comedy)	Brittany Murphy.			Smallville "Gemini"		Dark Oracle
	17	TREE	553 546	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Dragon	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	45	FAM	557 541	Zoe 101	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Mr. Nanny ** (1993, Comedy)			Dennis the Menace ** (1993, Comedy)		
cable variety	25	A&E	615 520	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	29	FOOD	603 561	Chef Abroad	The Wild Chef	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ace of Cakes		Challenge		Chef Abroad
	32	DISC	520 505	Man vs. Wild "Zambia"		Earthshocks: Ring of Fire		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild "Zambia"		Greensburg
	38	SPIKE	628 584	(6) Star Wars IV: A New Hope (1977, Science Fiction)		Ghost Hunters "Shining Hotel" (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		MANswers	MANswers	GameTrailers
	43	SPACE	627 528	Supernatural (HDTV)		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno			The Others *** (2001, Suspense)	Nicole Kidman.		
	50	STAR	621 56	At the Movies	Star-at Movies			TMZ	etalk	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Hollywood

SATURDAY

ED	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/29/08	2	CFRN	239 318	W-FIVE (N) (DVS)		Law & Order: SVU		To Be Announced		Law & Order		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	News (N)	Red-Women	CSI: NY (HDTV)		Along Came Polly ** (2004, Romance-Comedy)				Law/Ord SVU
	4	CBXT	- 307	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)						HNIC -- After Hours
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Scrubs	A New Smile, a New Life		NUMB3RS "Thirteen"		48 Hours Mystery "Drawn to Murder" (N)		
	7	CKEM	241 347	Survivorman (DVS)		Kaya	Less-Kind	Eve & the Fire Horse *** (2005, Drama), Hollie Lo				The City Show
	8	CITV	240 339	Ultimate Engineering		Tank Overhaul		Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	News (N)
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Le Moment de vérité (SC)		3600 secondes d'extase (SC)		Dre Grey, leçons d'anatomie		Le Téléjournal	Tellement	Boxe
	13	KXLY	- 371	(6) College Football Teams to Be Announced. (HDTV) (Live)				The Insider (N)		Entertainment Tonight		Storm Stories
	16	KAYU	- 373	Boston Legal		House "Love Hurts"		Cops		America's Most Wanted		News (N)
	19	CHTV	-	E News	The Soup	Soup Presents	Behind-Scenes	Dr. 90210 "Reinvention"		Forbes 20 Under 25		E News
news	22	KSPS	- 374	Happy Holidays: Andy Williams		My Music: Love		Songs of the 50s and 60s		Roy Orbison: Black & White Night		
	15	CBCTN	502	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Pagan Christ		Sat. Report	Weekend	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Pagan Christ
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	20	TSN	400 400	Boxing: Hatton vs. Malignaggi		Boxing Verno Phillips vs. Paul Williams. (HDTV) (Live)				SportsCentre	Poker	E:60 (N)
	23	net	408 418	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA.				The Ultimate Fighter		Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Con.
	47	SPEED	417 406	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)
	94	SCORE	410 403	Score on NFL	Footy Show	24/7		BodogFight		Strikeforce		Final Score
	14	YTV	552 543	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.	Wolverine	Transformers	Naruto	Blue Dragon	Zatch Bell (N)	Bleach	Storm Hawks
	17	TREE	553 546	Beren. Bears	Toopy & Binoo	Comfy Couch	Little Bear	Toy Castle	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	45	FAM	557 541	Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	Free Willy *** (1993, Drame)		
cable variety	25	A&E	615 520	CSI: Miami "Shock"		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	29	FOOD	603 561	Top Chef		Kitchen Nightmares		The F Word		Challenge		Top Chef
	32	DISC	520 505	Canada's Worst Driver		Criss Angel	Criss Angel	A Haunting "Spellbound"		Canada's Worst Driver		Criss Angel
	38	SPIKE	628 584	(6) Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back **** (1980)				Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back **** (1980, Science Fiction)				
	43	SPACE	627 528	Fringe (HDTV PA)		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Movie		Adv-Buckaroo Banzai		
	50	STAR	621 56	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Britain's Next Top Model		Fabulous Life	Old Skool	TMZ (N)		Scream

SUNDAY

ID	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/30/08	2	CFRN	239 318	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: Next	CSI: NY		The Amazing Race 13		Desperate Housewives		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	(6:15) NFL Football Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings. (HDTV) (Live)					Best Sports	Law & Order: SVU		CSI: NY
	4	CBXT	- 307	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005, Fantasy)				Harry Potter-Goblet of Fire		fifth estate
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The Amazing Race 13		Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		The Unit
	7	CKEM	241 347	Murdoch	Friends	Easy Money		Valentine		Crusoe		Reviews
	8	CITV	240 339	16X9 (N)	King of the Hill	Brothers & Sisters (N)		The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Découverte	Et Dieu créa	Tout le monde en parle (HDTV) (SC)				(10:15) Le Téléjournal (SC)		SMASH (SC)
	13	KXLY	- 371	News	Extreme Team	Funnies Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	16	KAYU	- 373	House "Three Stories"		To Be Announced		The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)
	19	CHTV	-	Greatest Myst.	Greatest Myst.	What Is Sexy? 2008		Extreme Makeover: Home		Real Housewives of OC		FANatical
news	22	KSPS	- 374	(6) Great Performances		Panda Tales		Celtic Woman: The Greatest Journey -- Holiday Special		Holiday Special		Red Hurley
	15	CBCTN	502	CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		Lady's Guide to Brothels (N)		Our World		CBC News: Sunday Night		Lady's Guide
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	20	TSN	400 400	(6:15) NFL Football Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre		Strength
	23	net	408 418	Red Bull: Air Race		World Combat League		World Combat League		Sportsnet Connected		Poker
	47	SPEED	417 406	Ultimate Factories (HDTV)		Ultimate Factories (HDTV)		Ultimate Factories (HDTV)		Ultimate Factories (HDTV)		Ult. Factories
	94	SCORE	410 403	NFL Blitz	NBA Basketball	Toronto Raptors at Los Angeles Lakers. (Live)				World Cup of Poker		Poker: Million
	14	YTV	552 543	Christmas With the Kranks ** (2004, Comedy)				SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553 546	Rolie Polie Olie	Mighty Mach	Bucket-Dinos	Toy Castle	Tipi Tales	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	45	FAM	557 541	Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	Freaky Friday *** (2003, Comedy)		
cable variety	25	A&E	615 520	CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami "Man Down"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Addiction"		CSI: Miami
	29	FOOD	603 561	Iron Chef America		Jamie's Kitchen Australia		Chef School	At the Table	Challenge		Iron Chef Am.
	32	DISC	520 505	(6) The Body Machine		MythBusters		Anthony Bourdain		The Body Machine		
	38	SPIKE	628 584	(6) Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi (1983, Science Fiction)				Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi *** (1983, Science Fiction)	Mark Hamill.			
	43	SPACE	627 528	Battlestar Galactica		Torchwood "Adam"		(9:05) Johnny Mnemonic * (1995, Science Fiction)				Flatliners
	50	STAR	621 56	Look-A-Like	Star-at Movies	Girl Next Door	In Fashion	Sex Scandals of the Stars		The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Girl Next Door



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A photograph of two young children standing against a light-colored wooden wall. The child on the left is a boy with blonde hair, wearing a blue and maroon striped turtleneck sweater and a matching scarf. The child on the right is a girl with dark hair, wearing a multi-colored striped beanie, a matching scarf, and a multi-colored striped sweater. Both children are smiling. The background is a simple wooden wall.

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Celebrity Buzz

Photog defends Miley shots

CONTROVERSY Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz insists her controversial Miley Cyrus shoot for Vanity Fair was justified, because the pictures of the teenager were "innocent," imdb.com reports.

Leibovitz's photos of the singer/actress, wearing just a blanket wrapped around her bare back and chest, caused outrage earlier this year because she was just 15 years old at the time.

The photographer is adamant the results were misinterpreted.

"The Miley picture was a beautiful, strong, simple picture," she tells the New York Post. "I think it's actually sort of innocent on some level. She loved taking that picture, and she

was ready to take that picture. It's just that her audience wasn't ready."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winslet loves new wrinkles

PEOPLE Kate Winslet says she "loves" her wrinkles, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 33-year-old actress insists she would never have Botox injected into her forehead because she enjoys seeing her face change as she gets older.

"I just love seeing those things," she says. "I am enjoying my face changing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Britney's alleged diet sparks worry

PEOPLE Pop star Britney Spears, who recently unveiled a newly toned figure, which she claims is due to a healthy eating and fitness regime, is battling an eating disorder, one of her bodyguards has allegedly revealed.

"Britney's diet consists mostly of

Taco Bell and turkey jerky washed down with Red Bull," a source close to one of Spears' bodyguards told Star magazine.

It has also been claimed the 26-year-old star is taking diet pills in order to maintain her new slim shape.

"The pills are like diuretics," another source said. "It just runs right through her."

Spears, who is said to have lost around 28 pounds in the last year, reportedly starting shedding weight when she began training for her upcoming world tour.

"Britney is thrilled she has finally got her pre-baby body," the source said. "But we are really worried she might not be going about it in the healthiest way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reese a shy speaker

PEOPLE Reese Witherspoon was devastated when she won an Academy Award in 2006 for her role in Johnny Cash biopic Walk The Line, because it forced her to confront her fear of public speaking, imdb.com reports.

While all the other Best Actress nominees at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre hoped and prayed for their names to be read out, Witherspoon insists she

wasn't ready to step up on-stage and address the star-studded audience.

"The whole time I was sitting there, hoping they wouldn't call my name, just because the idea of having to give a speech in front of everyone in the world is terrifying," she says. "It basically sums up who you are and you know it's going to be the clip that people show for the rest of your life."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie still mourns mom

FAMILY Angelina Jolie is "still a mess" over the death of her mother, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, whose mother died in January 2007, is still struggling to come to terms with life without Marcheline Bertrand, and is worried she will never be as close to anyone else again.

"She has to keep it together for the sake of her kids, but she is only human and falls apart from time to time," a source said. "She is still a mess over Marcheline's departure, believing no one understands her the way her mother did. They had a very strong bond that she feels she will never have with another person."

Jolie reportedly depends on partner Brad Pitt for support during her darkest times, and also relies on her six children to raise her spirits.

"Brad has been her rock, and he will always be there for her," the source added. "Without his love, she would never have been able to cope."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Law, Frost back together?

RELATIONSHIPS Actor Jude Law and Sadie Frost have sparked rumours of a reconciliation after going house hunting together, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former couple, who divorced in 2003 after six years of marriage, are said to be getting their relationship back on track and have decided to purchase a property to give the four children they raise together a home in the countryside.

"Jude and Sadie have been getting on fantastically in the past six months," a source says. "He decided to help her buy some where in Hampshire, in the countryside, a real family

place. They plan to invest together and give their children a truly loving home."

Law and Frost have also booked a vacation to South America with their kids so they can all spend Christmas together.

"They have always tried to stay on good terms for the sake of their kids and Christmas is important to both of them. So this year they're splashing out on a luxury break to Brazil to spend the festive break as a family," the source adds to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper. "Pals are desperately hoping a romantic reunion is on the cards."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nun role won't suit Portman

ACTING Natalie Portman turned down the chance to play a nun opposite movie great Meryl Streep in Doubt because she can't get her head around celibacy, imdb.com reports.

The actress was at one point very interested in the movie adaptation of John Patrick Shanley's hit play, but she turned the part down because she couldn't see herself as a lifelong virgin.

The playwright who also directed the movie told GossipSauce.com: "Natalie was very interested, but kept saying she had a problem. And we finally nailed down as to what the problem was: She basically said she didn't understand celibacy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Houston denies Brown reunion

RELATIONSHIPS Whitney Houston has denied reports she's reunited with ex-husband Bobby Brown after the pair was spotted enjoying a romantic dinner together in Georgia, imdb.com reports.

The two sparked reports they had rekindled their romance after photos surfaced of the pair spending time together, reports the Chicago Sun Times.

Her spokesperson said they remain separate but "good friends."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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4°C / -1°C



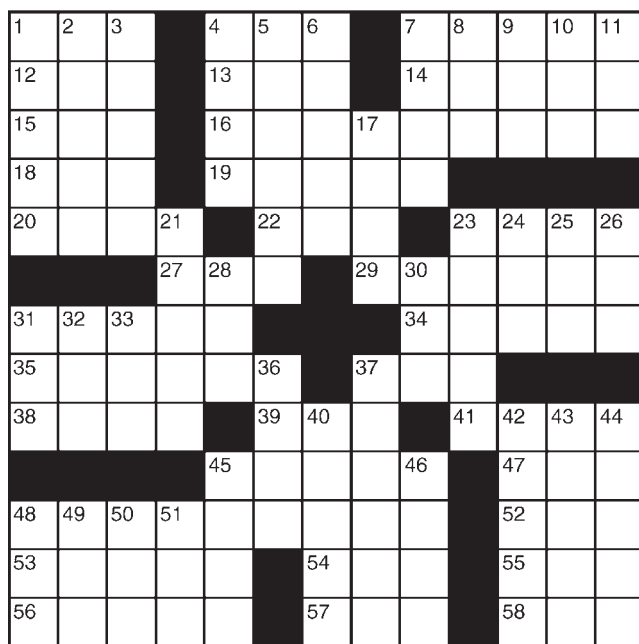
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WEEKDAYS AT 6 AM



Take Five



Crossword across

1 Bug killer
4 "— Wiedersehen"
7 Son of Japheth
12 Second person
13 Chromosome component
14 Home
15 Under the weather
16 Titmouse's cousin
18 Ph. bk. info
19 Bizarre
20 CSA uniforms
22 Pi follower
23 Entreaty
27 Feedbag tidbit
29 Swindle
31 Really bad

34 Blue hue
35 Printed calico
37 Wood-shaping tool
38 Chinese gang
39 Have
41 Host
45 Wine option
47 Perfume label word
48 Taco Bell mascot
52 Sleeve contents
53 Made on a loom
54 Rowboat need
55 Poorly lit
56 Rendezvous
57 On in years
58 For example

Crossword down

1 Very eager (to)
2 Sorrow
3 Oklahoma city
4 Not pizzicato
5 Not needing medical attention
6 Hill of music
7 Put together
8 Lawyers' org.
9 Pantheon member
10 "— to Joy"
11 "Golly!"
17 Gator's kin
21 Mormon leader
23 Popular takeout entree
24 Baton Rouge sch.
25 Always, in verse
26 Pub order

28 Model Carol
30 Conned
31 Performance
32 One of the five W's
33 Dorsal appendage
36 "J'accuse" writer
37 Yearly
40 Rodeo rider's cry
42 Peruses
43 "West Side Story" song
44 "Delish!"
45 Batter's tactic
46 Jack, e.g.
48 100 lbs.
49 Perp. to vert.
50 Trellis climber
51 "— So Fine"

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

D	A	B	G	A	E	L	T	O	F	U
E	L	I	U	N	D	O	I	B	I	S
B	I	L	L	I	N	G	S	A	O	N
L	A	D	Y	E	A	R	E	N	D	
G	L	O	W	E	R	N	A			
R	O	W	D	E	W	D	E	B	T	S
A	B	E	L	D	O	G	D	I	R	E
M	E	D	I	A	K	E	Y	L	I	C
	O	F	T	M	E	R	L	O	T	
Q	U	A	N	T	U	M	L	E	I	
U	R	G	E	B	I	L	L	F	O	L
I	D	E	S	A	L	O	E	N	E	O
P	U	S	S	S	O	U	R	S	E	C

9	1	2	5	7	3	4	6	8
3	5	6	8	4	9	7	2	1
4	8	7	1	2	6	5	9	3
6	4	8	3	9	2	1	5	7
1	3	9	4	5	7	6	8	2
7	2	5	6	1	8	3	4	9
2	7	1	9	6	4	8	3	5
5	6	3	2	8	1	9	7	4
8	9	4	7	3	5	2	1	6

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 minGenius
13-17 min.....Scholar

17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

6				3			9	
			8				1	
9		5			2	3		
		3						5
5		1	3		4	7		6
2						8		
		7	2			9		3
		6			5			
	2			8				4

Metro Recipe of the Day



Sausages with Spiced Wine and Apples

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/4 cup (300 mL) dry white wine
1/2 lb (230g) pork or chicken sausages
1 shallot or 1/2 small onion
2 crisp dessert apples
5 tbsp (70g) butter, at room temperature
3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken or vegetable stock
2 tbsp (25 mL) light brown sugar
1/2 tsp (10 mL) ground cinnamon

METHOD:

1. Bring wine to boil in a large frying pan and poach sausages gently for 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, peel and grate shallot or onion; peel, quarter, core and slice apples.
3. Gently melt small knob of

butter in a second frying pan. Remove sausages from first pan, reserving wine. Discard loose skins and fry sausages slowly in butter until browned all over.
4. Meanwhile, add shallot or onion to white wine in first pan; with apples, stock, brown sugar, cinnamon and remaining butter. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until apples become tender and liquid is reduced to thin syrup. Serve with apple sauce.

SERVES 2



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

A concerned friend helps you to understand. It's too late to apologize for an impulsive reaction. Co-operation can help to break bad habits.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

A new job prospect is revealed by chance. The next few weeks bring fresh revelations. Put a stop to constant phone calls..



LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

Let go of an argument before being forced to. You'll make a hasty decision. Contact a relative for peace of mind.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Unexpected rules will lighten your workload. A bully will cause a sleepless night. Ease your conscience about a minor rebellion.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

A hush-hush project will soon be in the news. Sort out the disorder in your affairs. An eccentric person reveals a history of defiance.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

Someone is keeping an eye on you. Do something you've been afraid to try. Make an exit from a stifling stalemate.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

A sense of destiny lifts your mood. Confusion about acceptable behaviour is troubling. Tell people what they want to hear.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

Don't drive anyone crazy with your ambitious plans. A conflict leads to torment for a friend. Prompt action outwits a protective person.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

Deep thoughts will baffle you. A friend comes clean about an ulterior motive. Carelessness leads to harsh words.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Be kind to a woman in love. A strange reaction should be observed closely. An old friend makes things right again.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

Being guarded impedes your progress. Step in to ease the burdens of others. Disappointments will melt away by night time.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

A woman's suggestion will lessen your worries. Someone will leave the scene. A nerdy guy will cause amusing confusion.



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BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

- "Simpsons" bar owner's foot digits (1)
- Far-from-polite bare model (1)
- Blouse grunge (1)
- An eye-colored pesto herb (2)
- Less crazy personal gym coach (2)
- (With 7) The anti political party's ...
- ... amendment offerings on the ballot (4)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

ANSWERS
1. LEMONS TEES 2. RUDE NUDE 3. SHIRT DIRT 4. HAZEL BASIL
5. SANER TRAINER 6. OPPOSITIONS 7. PROPOSITIONS

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